



Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2022

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Scott Kaufmann began the virtual meeting at 8:33am.

Mental Health Legislative Update

Dennis Brennan, Legislative Manager at the DuPage County Health Department, provided a snapshot of mental health-related bills that have passed, progressed, and stalled in the IL General Assembly. Bills discussed are listed below, along with their current position. We will continue to monitor these and other mental health bills in the future, with special attention to the Behavioral Health Workforce Omnibus (SB 3617). We will also report on any progress made legislatively that provides funding to services in DuPage, such as a prospective Central Receiving Center.

- Laws previously passed by the IL General Assembly
 - Community Services and Supports Act (CESSA)
 - SAFE-T Act
- Laws that passed one Chamber of General Assembly
 - SB 2945 - Statewide 9-8-8 Trust Fund
 - HB 4545 - Medicaid Managed Care
 - SB 3617 - Behavioral Health Workforce Omnibus
- Temporarily stalled bills
 - HB 4238/SB3935 - Rebuild Illinois Mental Health Workforce Act
 - SB 3438 - The Mental Health Assessment Reform Act
 - SB 2910/HB4113 - Mental Health Oversight Officer
 - HB 110 - Safe Consumption And Overdose Prevention Services
 - HB 4187 - Mental Health-Facility Access

Behavioral Health Crisis System Planning

Lori Carnahan provided a presentation about the ongoing efforts in DuPage to align different mental health programs and projects into a cohesive system. The presentation began with a video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6BPxH09tqU>) about how 988 can be another major part of this shift. It's helpful to break up the crisis response into three questions that need to be answered: Does someone have somewhere to call? Does that place have someone to respond and assist? After the call, does the person in crisis have somewhere to go? These are all addressed by different means and are done in accordance with the State's Vision of Crisis Infrastructure.

Kathy Carey dove deeper into the local answers to those questions, first with 988 being someone to call. The official go-live date for 988 remains July 16th, 2022, but Kathy shared that this is just the deadline for phone carriers to have 988 route directly to the National Suicide Prevention Line. In fact, many carriers have already done this, so 988 rollout is already underway. DuPage is receiving guidance from IDHS and DMH to grow their existing call center services to prepare for anticipated higher call volume. More information about the State's 988 plans can be found on their website: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=135439>.

For the "someone to respond" aspect of crisis response, the Health Department is using a state 590 grant to expand the crisis services already provided. Included in this growth is increasing DCHD's crisis workforce, increasing the number and scope of mobile crisis response teams, and peer support from engagement specialists. The full implementation should be achieved by July 1st of this year. Finally, strengthening the "somewhere to go" in our community means educating on the existing options and what we hope to begin work on soon. Currently, the Crisis Center (115 N County Farm Rd, Wheaton, IL 60187) operates a Crisis Residential program (alternatively known as Crisis Stabilization or Crisis Respite) with 12 beds in an unlocked, voluntary unit. This is typically a stay of a few days as an alternative to hospitalization, or as a step down when someone is released from inpatient behavioral health but not ready to fully return home yet. In addition to the Crisis Residential unit, efforts are still underway to also develop a Central Receiving Center. This is different from Residential, as CRC would provide a shorter stay (maximum of 23 hrs, 59 mins) and more typically used as a drop-off for law enforcement when someone experiencing a crisis needs an evaluation and referral to treatment. Funding for the CRC is still being sought and updates on its progress will continue to be provided to the BHC.

BHC Project Updates

Kathy provided an update on the efforts of the Zero Suicide Subcommittee, which is still pushing for the newly developed Mental Health Resource page (<https://www.dupagehealth.org/703/Mental-Health-Resources>) to be shared widely. The subcommittee is working to share not just the site, but to have partners host the web buttons on their websites so that visitors to their sites that may be in crisis would have multiple touchpoints to access the crisis resources. If you would like to host a button on your website or add a QR code on your materials, contact scott.kaufmann@dupagehealth.org and he will be sure to help you. The Subcommittee's next area of focus will be on devising materials to clarify the differences in different available crisis resources in a few different formats. Kathy asked if the BHC had recommendations on formats for this information that would be helpful, and some options included an infographic page, a palm card, and cards that can be shared in bathrooms across the county.

Two members of the Zero Suicide Subcommittee are also participating on the Prevention Leadership Team's School Committee to help align suicide prevention resources for schools. Primarily, the group wanted to agree on recommendations for prevention resources that are now required on the backs of school ID cards and provide guidance for handling the new mental health days for students. A resource page has been set up for schools and teachers for these and other topics: <https://www.dupageplt.org/191/Teachers>. Scott Kaufmann will be presenting about BHC and Zero Suicide at a future PLT meeting to further partner the organizations' efforts.

The four Impact DuPage Assessments have been completed for the 2021-22 assessment phase, and the Impact DuPage Steering Committee is in the process of prioritizing areas of focus for the next three years based upon

the assessment results. The priorities will be share in late April or early May, and the full Action Plan with reports will be shared in June. BHC has been a partner organization for the past several years, and will use these assessments to guide our future goals and the upcoming 2023-25 BHC Action Plan. The BHC Executive Committee will meet once the assessment results are made public in order to review and discuss where we should focus over the next three years. We will then brainstorm goals during the June BHC meeting. The Executive Committee will specify goals, objectives, and activities between August and November, and will vote on the new action plan before the December 2022 BHC meeting.

For other BHC updates, Scott shared that the JMHCP grant from BJA has been extended through the end of 2022 and will help fund BHC projects such as the mobile crisis response team. The Overdose Fatality Review Team is being restarted and will begin meeting this summer to review overdose deaths and determine ways to improve overdose prevention and response. Finally, the Heroin/Opioid Taskforce is accepting applications for opioid prevention grants through April 12, 2022. Interested applicants can visit the following page to learn more: <https://hopedupage.org/197/Taskforce-Funding-Opportunity>.

Questions & Other Community Efforts

BHC members had several great programs and updates to share at the end of the meeting, listed below:

- Jenni Watgen shared that Aurora University is holding a [Social Work Job Fair](#) on April 8th. Since RSVPs are due on Friday, March 18th, Scott shared information about this event during the afternoon of 3/17 to provide adequate time to RSVP.
- Katrina Baugh from Radical Hospitality Ministries introduced herself and will be reaching out to partners to assist with behavioral health treatment at their post-release home for individuals being release from incarceration that have a mental illness.
- Tracey Papesh shared that Timberline Knolls is developing an upcoming event for veterans and first responders about handling trauma and preventing suicide. The event will be shared widely with BHC once information is available.
- Mariola Kasper shared that Metropolitan Family Services is introducing a redesigned model to include more peer support and form team-based assistance.
- Robert Skroki shared that the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice is holding its [2022 conference in Chicago July 6-9th](#).

Anyone that is interested in sharing an event or project can do so by emailing Scott Kaufmann (scott.kaufmann@dupagehealth.org) in order to feature it in the next BHC Newsletter or as an email to all BHC members.

The next BHC meeting will be on Thursday, June 9th at 8:30am. Those that are interested in attending should [register here](#). The meeting concluded at 10:01am.